

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3007

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SW
SUBJ: PALME ON DETENTE, DISARMAMENT AND US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CONTINUING A TRADITION BEGUN IN 1965, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER OLOF PALME ADDRESSED THE CONGRESS OF THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ON AUGUST 2 IN KARLSTAD. PALME USUALLY FOCUSES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THESE ANNUAL SPEECHES AND CHOOSE THIS YEAR TO DWELL MAINLY ON DETENTE, DISARMAMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE THE SPEECH CRITICIZED BOTH SUPER POWERS FOR HEATING UP THE ARMS RACE, PALME'S MOJ CONSTANT AND BITING ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AT THE USSR. INDEED, AT LEASE ONE EDITORIAL POINTED OUT THAT THE KARLSTAD SPEECH "MUST BE REGARDED AS PRO-AMERICAN". EMBASSY POUCHING COMPLETE TEXT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT OR "BROTHERHOOD", AN INTEGRAL QNTITY OF THE LARGER SDP AND FREQUENTLY MORE RADICAL ON THIRD WORLD AND ANTI-SUPERPOWER THEMES THAN THE SDP ITSELF, HELD ITS ANNUAL CONGRESS AT KARLSTAD ON AUGUST 2. SINCE 1965, FORMER PM PALME HAS USED HIS ROLE AS PRINCIPAL GUEST TO PRESENT
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A FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPEECH. (IN 1965, PALME DWELT EXCLUSIVELY ON THE THEME OF THE VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE--A POPULAR TOPIC IN THAT THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE AMONG THE MOST VEHEMENT AND MILITANT CRITICS OF US POLICY IN VIETNAM THROUGHOUT THAT STRUGGLE.) WHILE OFFERING A POTPOURRI OF PALME EXPERTISE THIS YEAR, THE SDP LEADER FOCUSED MAINLY ON DETENTE, THE NEED FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND US POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. SPEAKING OF CURRENT US-SOVIET RELATIONS, PALME NOTED THAT THE WORSENEED POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS THEMSELVES. "BOTH SIDES ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF UNDERMINING DETENTE. BOTH SIDES ARE REARMING. IN THE SOVIET UNION, MOCK TRIALS ARE GOING ON THAT REMIND US OF THE DAYS OF STALIN." PALME RECALLED THAT THE USSR WAS TACITLY RECOGNIZED AS A SUPERPOWER BY THE US IN 1972. EXPECTATIONS OF DETENTE AND GOOD SOVIET BEHAVIOUR WERE STIMULATED. BUT THE RHETORIC OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION RESULTED IN DISAPPOINTMENT AND WAS CHANGED TO INDIGNATION IN PRESIDENT FORD'S TIME. PALME SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO CARRY OUT A POLICY AWAY FROM A BALANCE OF POWER MENTALITY, A POLICY WHICH EMPHASIZES HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. BUT, PALME CONTINUED, CARTER DOES NOT HESITATE TO TREAD ON THE TOES OF THE RUSSIAN LEADERS IN OTHER RESPECTS; AT THE SAME TIME HE DESIRES DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT. THE COMBINATION HAS CONFUSED AND IRRITATED MOSCOW. IN NIXON'S TIME, THE ADOPTED PRACTICE WAS TO CONCEAL EACH OTHER'S IMPERFECTIONS. "NOW, "UNDER CARTER, "THE VEILS ARE MERCILESSLY TORN APART, THE FALSE FRONTS ARE PULLED DOWN AND THE DEFECTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY ARE REVEALED". THIS COINCIDES, PALME SAID, WITH CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE SOVIETS' INTERNAL PROBLEMS, REFLECTED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE SHAM TRIALS IN MOSCOW. "THE SOVIET SOCIAL SYSTEM IS LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN EVER; EURO-COMMUNISM SHOWS THIS. IN A CERTAIN SENSE, THE SOVIET UNION IS ITS OWN WORST ENEMY".

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4. PALME WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS AN HONEST WILL TO ALLOW RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF US RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS, NOT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION.

5. DISARMAMENT IN A NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORLD TOOK UP THE REMAINDER OF PALME'S HOUR-LONG ADDRESS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS LEAD TO PROMPT RESULTS. "THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE FACING A NUMBER OF TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS IN WEAPONS WHICH, IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO MATERIALIZE, MAY UNDERMINE THE BALANCE OF TERROR". THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE RISK TO WAR IN EUROPE, PALME SAID, "BUT YET EUROPE IS A CENTER OF A REARMAMENT RACE. HERE IS A READY ARENA FOR WAR... THERE IS EVERY REASON TO DEMAND A EUROPE FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS...PALME SUGGESTED THAT WORK BEGIN WITH ZONES (IN EUROPE) FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH ULTIMATELY COULD END IN A NUCLEAR-FREE EUROPE.

6. THE PALME SPEECH HAS NOT MADE THE SPLASH IT MIGHT BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING POLITICAL DOLDRUMS OF THE SWEDISH SUMMER. THE EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THE COMMENT OF DAGENS NYHETER WHICH SAID THE KARLSTAD ADDRESS "MUST BE REGARDED AS PRO-AMERICAN" AND THAT

IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO PURSUE
A MORE MORAL FOREIGN POLICY, "PALME IS PROBABLY MORE POSITIVE
THAN ANY OTHER LEADING EUROPEAN POLITICIAN TODAY". CONSERVATIVE
SVENSKA DAGBLADET, TRADITIONALLY PALME-BAITING ON ANY SUBJECT,
WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO COMPLIMENT THE OPPOSITION LEADER FOR A
"COMPETENT AND, IN MANY RESPECTS, CONVINCING ANALYSIS OF US-SOVIET
RELATIONS".

7. EMBASSY IS OBTAINING COMPLETE TEXT OF PALME'S REMARKS WHICH
WILL BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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